

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 11 and 21 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 10, 12, 20 and 22 to read as follows.

1 1. (amended) An adjustable gate hinge and latch system for
2 a fence gate of a fence, the system including:

3 a hinge to interconnect the gate to a first post of the
4 fence, the hinge supporting the gate and permitting pivoting
5 movement of the gate relative to the first fence post; and

6 a latch unit to secure the gate, to a second post of
7 the fence, in a closed position of the gate, said first and
8 second posts defining a generally vertical plane of said fence;

9 wherein the latch unit has an arrangement to permit
10 adjustment of the gate relative to the fence in a direction
11 perpendicular to the plane of the fence when said gate is in a
12 closed position, and the arrangement includes two components that
13 are relatively slidable along the direction perpendicular to the
14 plane of the fence and that are secured to each other subsequent
15 to the movement along the direction perpendicular to the plane of
16 the fence.

1 4. (amended) An adjustable gate hinge and latch system for
2 a fence gate of a fence, the system including:

3 a hinge to interconnect the gate to a first post of the
4 fence, the hinge supporting the gate and permitting pivoting
5 movement of the gate relative to the first fence post; and

6 a latch unit to secure the gate, to a second post of
7 the fence, in a closed position of the gate, said first and
8 second posts defining a generally vertical plane of said fence;

9 wherein the hinge unit has an arrangement to permit

10 adjustment of the gate relative to the fence in a direction
11 perpendicular to the plane of the fence when said gate is in a
12 closed position, and the arrangement includes two components that
13 are relatively slidable along the direction perpendicular to the
14 plane of the fence and that are secured to each other subsequent
15 to the movement along the direction perpendicular to the plane of
16 the fence and the first component is fixedly attached to the
17 first post, and the second component is movable along the first
18 component along the direction perpendicular to the plane of the
19 fence and is secured to the first component and one of the two
20 components has an elongate slot extending in the direction
A21 perpendicular to the plane of the fence and the other of the two
22 components has an opening, a fastener extends through the slot
23 and the opening, and the fastener is loosened to permit the
24 relative movement of the components and is tightened to secure
25 the components to each other and wherein the first component has
26 a portion engaged with the first post and a portion spaced from
27 the first post, and the second component has a portion located
28 adjacent to the first post and between the first post and the
29 spaced-away portion of the first component.

A5 1 10. (amended) A system as set forth in claim 4, wherein the
2 hinge can be inverted to be used on either of the two posts
3 associated with the gate.

A4 1 12. (amended) A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 first component is fixedly attached to the gate, and the second
3 component is movable along the first component along the
4 direction perpendicular to the plane of the fence and is secured
5 to the first component.

A5 1 20. (amended) A system as set forth in claim 12, wherein
2 the latch unit includes a latch pin mounted to move with the

3 gate, a latch mounting bracket attached to the second post on a
4 first side of the fence, and a catch member pivotally mounted
5 relative to the latch mounting bracket, the catch member includes
6 a center portion to engage and retain the latch pin when the gate
7 is in the closed position, an upper portion actuatable to operate
8 the catch member, and a lower portion actuatable to operate the
9 catch member, and wherein the latch mounting bracket and the
10 catch member can be inverted to be used on either of the two
11 posts associated with the gate.

1 22. (amended) An adjustable latch unit for a fence gate
2 between a first post and a second post of a fence, said first and
3 second posts defining a generally vertical plane of said fence,
4 the latch unit securing the gate to a post of the fence when the
5 gate is in a closed position, the latch unit including an
6 arrangement to permit adjustment of the gate relative to the
7 fence in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the fence when
8 said gate is in a closed position, and the arrangement includes
9 two components that are relatively slidable along the direction
10 perpendicular to a plane of the fence and that are secured to
11 each other subsequent to the movement along the direction
12 perpendicular to the plane of the fence.

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing "the horizontal lines" of claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to delete the offending language.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being indefinite with respect to "a direction perpendicular to a plane of the fence". The "plane of the fence" is now defined and provides an intuitive and easily construed orientation for describing the structure of the invention.